

Our Promise: The Spirit of Truth

The night before the crucifixion, Jesus told His disciples He was leaving them. This caused confusion and distress, and they wondered: Who would guide them? Who would help them? Then Jesus gave them a promise they didn't expect. **John 14:16-17:** *"I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper, so that He may be with you forever; the Helper is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it does not see Him or know Him; but you know Him because He remains with you and will be in you."* This promise applies to all Christians from that day to the present. Jesus introduced them to the Holy Spirit. The Spirit of truth is "He," not "it." He is God, the third person of the Trinity, and has all the same attributes as God the Father and God the Son. **John 7:37-39:** *"On the last and greatest day of the festival, Jesus stood and said in a loud voice, 'Let anyone who is thirsty come to Me and drink. Whoever believes in Me, as Scripture has said, rivers of living water will flow from within them.' By this He meant the Spirit, whom those who believed in Him were later to receive. Up to that time the Spirit had not been given, since Jesus had not yet been glorified."* You see, every believer possesses the Spirit. **Romans 8:9-10:** *"However, you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. But if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Him. If Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, yet the spirit is alive because of righteousness."* Every believer is baptized into the body and drinks of the Spirit, and every believer is the temple of the Spirit of God. **Galatians 2:20:** *"I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me."* He has a personality and sorrows, grieves, and is anguished by our sin. He is defiled when the temple, which is our body, is defiled. Those who belong to Christ have moved from living according to sinful human nature (*"the flesh"*) to living by the Holy Spirit. When we understand this doctrine, it is the most mind-boggling truth imaginable that the God of the universe, God Himself, sovereign, almighty, and majestic, could take up residence in our bodies. It is almost inconceivable to us, yet that is exactly the truth of the New Testament. Stop right there. Who gets the Spirit? Those who believe. You see, it's the simple act of saving faith that gives us the Holy Spirit. He becomes the river of living water and takes up permanent residence in our lives. And we can never lose that. The Spirit is a permanent resident in the life of the believer. So let's pray, Heavenly Father. Thank You for the Holy Spirit who lives in us and wants to fill us as we yield to the presence of Jesus Christ. Help us practice His presence and think of Jesus from morning until night as we feed on His Word, so that the Spirit can lead and we can be useful to You in Your purposes for Your glory. In Jesus' name, amen.